



Fair Political Practices Commission

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www.fppc.ca.gov

NEWS ADVISORY

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FPPC considers conflict-of-interest rules for general plan decisions

Discussion of proposed regulatory changes on March 15 commission agenda

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The Fair Political Practices Commission will discuss proposed regulatory action to address how the conflict-of-interest rules apply to local general plan decisions at its monthly meeting on **Monday, March 15**.

The purpose of the proposed regulatory action is to allow increased participation by public officials in jurisdiction-wide, policy-level general plan decisions.

Monday's meeting begins at 9:45 a.m. in the FPPC's eighth-floor hearing room at 428 J St. (Fifth and J Streets) in Sacramento.

The Political Reform Act prohibits a public official from "making, participating in making or otherwise using his or her official position to influence a governmental decision" in which that official has a financial interest. If it is "reasonably foreseeable" the decision will have a "material financial effect" on that official, which differs from its effect "on the public generally," then the official is deemed to have a conflict and must abstain from voting.

A staff memorandum, available on the FPPC website, presents several options to amend or add conflict-of-interest regulations to address general plan issues. The memorandum, prepared by Commission Counsel Natalie Bocanegra and Kenneth L. Glick, explains that local officials are "specifically interested in special rules that apply to fundamental, jurisdiction-wide land use decisions. According to these jurisdictions, it is these types of decisions in which public officials should be allowed more participation."

At Monday's meeting, the commission will discuss the regulatory options outlined in the staff memorandum. Adoption of possible regulatory changes is currently planned for May 2004. **(Agenda Item #20)**

The agenda is posted on the FPPC website at: www.fppc.ca.gov. Click on "Agendas" on the left side of the home page, and go to "Current Agenda."

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Proposed enforcement stipulations, orders and exhibits can be obtained from the website by clicking on the link in that agenda item. Memoranda regarding other items on the agenda are also accessible by clicking on the links in those agenda items on the website.

Letters responding to items on the agenda after it was posted on the website 10 days prior to the meeting can be found at the top of the agenda on the website.

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